



Fire Management Plan Fire Management Program

National Park Service Wildland Fire Management Program Goals

"The goals of the NPS wildland fire management program are to:

1. Conduct a vigorous and safe wildland fire management program with the highest professional and technological standards.
2. Identify the type of wildland fire that is most appropriate to specific situations and areas.
3. Efficiently accomplish resource management objectives through the application and management of prescribed and wildland fires.
4. Continually evaluate the wildland fire program operations and accomplishments to better meet program goals by refining treatment and monitoring methods, and by integrating applicable technical and scientific advancements."

-- Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual #18

This manual is issued by the Associate Director, Park Operations and Education, and provides details and guidance of all information presented in the NPS Director's Order 18.



Fire Classifications



•**Prescribed Fire:** Any fire ignited by fire managers to meet specific objectives. A prescribed fire plan must be written and approved, and NEPA requirements must be met prior to ignition.

•**Wildland Fire:** Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, occurring in the wildland.

•**Wildland Fire Suppression:** An appropriate management response to a wildland fire that curtails fire spread and eliminates identified threats from the fire. All fires that threaten lives or values at risk are suppressed.

•**Wildland Fire Use:** The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish pre-established resource management objectives in pre-defined geographic areas. These areas are outlined in Fire Management Plans.

•**Fire Use:** The combination of wildland fire use and prescribed fire application to meet resource objectives.

"Wildland fire use is a desirable method to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems. In other areas where fire is an essential component of the ecosystem but cannot be allowed to burn as a natural process because of management constraints, prescribed fire is used to maintain the influence of natural fire or to restore the fuel characteristics to a condition more compatible with the eventual reintroduction of wildland fire."

-- Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual #18



The Swamp Wildland Fire Use Incident, 2001



Suppression action on a North Rim fire

Fire at Grand Canyon National Park

A prescribed fire at Grand Canyon is a planned ignition designed to contribute specifically to the park's resource management objectives. A prescribed fire plan is written by resource managers and recommended by the Deputy Superintendent, the Chief Ranger, and the Science Center Director. The plan is then approved by the Park Superintendent.



A wildland fire at Grand Canyon is managed as directed by the park's fire management plan and after an analysis of the specific situation. Considerations include values to be protected, management objectives, and external concerns. Management options range from monitoring the fire with little action taken on the ground, to full suppression on the entire fire perimeter.



Accomplishing NPS Fire Management Goals at Grand Canyon NP

Fire managers and staff at Grand Canyon National Park will:

Protect life and property while providing for public and firefighter safety



Protect public health and environmental quality as mandated by state and federal law

Plan for fire prevention, suppression, wildland/urban interface protection, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire

Coordinate with resource managers to consider the best available scientific data

Maintain an adequate workforce and organization

Continue to communicate, educate, and cooperate with the public and other agencies

Continually evaluate and refine the fire management program and fire operations

For more information...

The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy that governs wildland fire management can be found on this website:
www.fs.fed.us/land/wdfire.html

The NPS Reference Manual #18, Wildland Fire Management, can be found on this website:
<http://www.nps.gov/fire/fire/policy/rm18/>

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has developed a flowchart illustrating the framework for federal agencies' management of all wildland fires. It can be found on this website:

http://www.fsfed.us/fire/fireuse/wildland_fire_use/ref_guide/index.html

